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## TRAGEDY IN CAYLON.

### A Suspended Bridge Wire Breaks.

The Week festivities were marred by a terrible accident that occurred on May 11 near Polgahawela, Ceylon. About a mile and a half on the Polgahawela-Kegalle road, the big bridge over the Maha Oya, which was destroyed by the floods last year is being rebuilt and in the meantime a temporary wire bridge had been erected across the new structure, being suspended above the roadway of the new bridge at a height of 25 feet and about 160 feet above the bed of the river, says the Times of Ceylon.

On the Saturday morning the road was crowded with Week holiday makers whose objective was a big temple on the other side of the river. Apparently it had not struck any one that the bridge was not built to carry a large crowd of people and, as far as we have been able to learn, no attempt was made to regulate the traffic. Hundreds of holiday-makers, men, women, and children, mostly chattering and laughing between intervals of their ringing cry of "Sadda," walked along the frail, springing structure quite unconscious of the danger they were incurring. The traffic was at its greatest, about half past ten, and then, without warning, a hundred people on the bridge were suddenly without any warning one of the wires on which the bridge was suspended snapped, and the bridge, still held by the wire on the other side, tilted and, slipping most of the way, came into the water, the dry bed of the river, or the masonry under-neath as the case might be. The bridge then partially righted itself and, with a crash, with about 20 or 30 frightened men and women, who had managed to get a firm grasp of the iron rails, clung to it.

To the people who stood on either side, either about to cross or having just done so, the shock was terrible, as, as may be imagined—a gaily dressed, happy crowd of men and women, many of the latter with children in their arms, a sudden crash, and the air suddenly rent with shrieks which continued spasmodically as after the first disclosure of human bodies into the river, others who had obtained a partial hold of the rails and planks of the bridge dropped intervals from the swaying iron structure. Two circumstances in connection with the accident were fortunate, one being that the river was slightly in flood and the other that the water was only about four feet deep. If the river had been normal there would have been a great arm of exposed bed of stones. Those who fell into the water, as far as we have been able to learn, escaped without serious injury, though they at first presented a most appalling scene than the others—frightened men and women struggling in the water, the women and children uttering the most piercing cries. Happily they were easily assisted to the bank by the crowd. On the land bed of the river, however, some of the people on the bridge were along to the edge without assistance, others had to be helped. In the meantime the injured had been brought up to the road. Only one man was found as badly dead. Three others died on the way to Polgahawela station. Another man, a wealthy villager, died in the station. The wife of the latter, who was severely injured herself, was present, but she refused to go to the hospital, saying that she must go to make arrangements for the funeral. There were about 40 injured, 23 of them severely, of whom 10 were sent by train to Kurengulla hospital.

During the sale of the J. B. Hodgkin art collection at Sotheby's, recently, a small collection of royal relics was disposed of for £17. They consisted of a lock of the hair of Edward IV., taken from the king's head when his body was discovered in 1789, while repairs were being executed to the pavement of the choir in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; a fragment of the lining of the cloak of Charles I., preserved at Shaw House, near Salisbury; and a piece of Charles I.'s neckcloth which he was wearing at the moment of his execution. The collection was formerly the property of the Duchess Lady Clinton who had inherited it from the Count of Artois.

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